Amendments to Standing Orders.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I rise to move that the following amendment to Standing Order No. 3 (a) be taken up and passed:—when such notification has been published and summons issued, the Diwan may, either before the meeting commences or during the course of the meeting, extend the time of the meeting by issuing a notification to that effect in the Gazette and in such a case no summons need be issued to the Members of the Council".

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Kuries Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I rise to move that the Cochin Kuries Regulation Amendment Bill' be taken up and passed.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Municipal Regulation Amendment Bill (Schedule IV)

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I rise to move that the Cochin Municipal Regulation Amendment Bill (Schedule IV) be taken up and passed.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Resolutions.

2. Posting of Teachers (*cont.*)

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Sir, I have already shown to the Hon'ble Members of this House that the principle advocated by my resolution would be advantageous both to the teachers and to the public at large. Needless for me to say that the advantages to the teachers are so obvious that they require very little proof. It is not merely a case of reduction of cost of living but also a case of alleviating many of the domestic worries which are incidental to the maintenance of a separate house-hold in a foreign village. Again, in this connection, one has to remember that teachers are a poorly paid lot and at the same time they have to maintain a higher status and standard of life than clerks and other officials who receive equal pay. Very often, say in the case of residence a teacher cannot afford to live in a hotel or in such similar places. He has to maintain a separate house for decency I say and also in the matter of dress and such other things. He has to maintain a higher status in life and a higher standard of living which means higher cost. So that if any economic comparison is drawn between a teacher drawing Rs. 20 and a clerk drawing Rs. 20, it is, I am afraid, against the teacher.

Another thing that we have to remember in this connection is this. When the pay of the Government officers in many of the

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departments was revised, the case came up of teachers also and that was during the time of Rao Sahib Mathai, who was then the Director of Public Instruction. I understand that the revision—if at all anything was made at that time in the case of teachers—was rather very unsatisfactory and one argument advanced by the then Director was that he was taking particular care to see that these teachers are posted in their own villages as far as possible and in that way they can save a good deal of the cost of living. But now we find that this principle has been violated in very many cases-in some cases it might have been inevitable; but I believe that in many other cases it might have been avoided.

Coming to the advantages to the public, there also we find that if teachers of the same village are appointed as far as possible in their own villages, they can take part in the public life of the village to a larger extent than if they come from other villages. They can promote such public under-takings as co-operation, rural reconstruction, running of libraries, reading rooms and so on and in the matter of securing better attendance at schools, a local teacher will be able to do much better than teachers coming from other parts. For these reasons, we can conclude that the appointment of teachers in their own villages or close to their villages will be advantageous to the public and to the teachers.

Now coming to the question of possibility I would ask whether, it is not possible to give effect to this principle in very many cases. There is a large army of teachers and more often the exigencies of service will require that this principle should be violated for making appointments. There is some difficulty, I admit. Now, I should make a very humble suggestion in this case to reduce or minimise the difficulty. Those of the teachers who may not have a village of their own may be posted freely, because in their case when one has no village of his own and when one has necessarily to be out of his own house, it does not matter to him whether he is in village A or village B. And I believe that such is the condition of many of the Brahmin teachers in our service. There is some truth in the statement. They have left their homes years ago and they have entered into the Cochin Government service and they are having a sort of itinerary life so that whether they are in village A or village B it does not matter to them. So that, if that principle is adopted, there will be better facility to adopt or to observe this principle in the case of teachers who have a village of their own and who therefore will be benefited substantially if they are given the privilege of living in their own villages. I am sure the Hon'ble Member

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for Education must have brought to his notice all these facts and he must have given due consideration to these matters and I expect that sympathetic as he is towards his subordinates, he would be very glad to accept this resolution and give effect to it as far as possible. With these observations, I commend this resolution to the kind acceptance of this Honourable House.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Sir, I feel happy in seconding this Resolution. I believe, it has been the policy of Government to carry out the spirit of this resolution, as has been previously expressed on the floor of this House by the then Director of Public Instruction, Mr. Mathi. How, although this principle has been accepted, exceptions have been too numerous to eat up the Rule and I find a lot of complaints in this respect. After the present Director assumed charge, mutual transfers of teachers from villages on this ground were readily granted so that inconveniences to which teachers have been put to on this score have been to a large extent mitigated. Apart from the considerations urged by the mover, it seems to me that there is another advantage in having a local teacher appointed in the school. In the pial schools of old, the Ezhuthasan exercised great influence over students, he watched the students in the school, and watched their progress outside. The asan had a sort of local influence over these students, and any remissness on the part of the students was brought home to their guardians and they largely moulded the character of the pupils. Similarly, an elementary school teacher, if belonged to the village in which the boy resided, will be able to exercise a wholesome influence over the students. The experience of the last 30 years show that children are getting more and more naughty and unmanageable. Whether this is due to the lack of discipline in our primary schools, or to the charged mentality of the children, or whether it be due to both causes, I can't say. I do not know very much about the psychology of children. All the same, the fact is certain that the children are becoming more and more naughty. I would invite your attention to Lord Baden-Powell's famous dictum, that 'a mischievous child is a hopeful". 'Only he has to be directed and disciplined, and that sort of discipline may be very well exercised by a local teacher who knows the guardians of the children, who knows their antecedents and their families. On that ground also, I would certainly recommend the spirit of this resolution to the Government.

Apart from the other consideration referred to by my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Pettah, that such conveniences would afford some relief in house-hold expenditure in the case of these poorly paid teachers, with which I agree, this aspect appeals to me more than anything else. With these words, I secend this resolution.

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Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I support this resolution. The policy of appointing teachers as far as possible in their native places must be more adhered to in the case of female teachers. It is not always safe and advisable to send these young females far away from their villages. It is not advisable for them to go to the hotel and live in another's house. So they will have to take a rented house and take somebody with them. So it will be very expensive. So, as far as possible, the female teachers must be appointed in their villages. I support this resolution.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Mr. President, Sir, I have great pleasure in accepting not merely the principle but also in explaining that as far as possible this has been the general principle which has been guiding the policy of the Department.

The Hon'ble Member said in the course of his speech last evening that he had a list of instances in which this Department had departed from this principle without any adequate grounds. In the morning yesterday there was some question of list of members of the Legislative Council who had applied for appointments and Government said that it was not proper to give out the list. I suppose the Hon'ble Member will not say that he will not disclose the list.

My submission, Sir, is this. That if there had been instances in which it was found necessary to depart from this rule, it was, as far as I could see, based upon sheer necessity and in the exigencies of service. If in the opinion of this House these departures are made wantonly I am prepared to correct myself. By disclosing the list he is not doing any injustice to his client. He is only trying to help him.

Again, Sir, there is a wave of feeling that when a posting or transfer is made in the Department on the ground of exigencies of service the Department is trying to take shelter in a sort of subterfuge which is not open to inspection. It is a great mistake. For the last three years I have been maintaining a special register in which the requests for transfer noted. The names of places to which transfers are asked for are also noted and at the first opportunity without dislocation of the work of schools transfers are effected. Some Hon'ble Members who do not know the great magnitude of the army of teachers employed by the Department either directly or indirectly may think that the matter is very simple, and all that is required is a small measure of generosity and good will on the part of the clerk and the Head of the Department. This is a serious misunderstanding. After all, the number of teachers affected even if the principle is totally violated is very small compared with the total number of

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teachers because a larger proportion of teachers are employed in aided schools. With regard to the teachers actually employed in the Cochin Educational service except when there is a proved necessity for a transfer a person is not transferred from one place to another. There is the saving to be effected under T. A. The exigencies of service which are inexorable are a few. In the first place, in some school the Headmaster wants a specialist in one subject. All that he has to do is to write to the Head of the Department and ask for a specialist. It so happens that that particular village which wants a specialist happens not to be possessed of a specialist. So he has to be transferred from elsewhere. How that could be avoided I do not know. The Hon'ble Member would try to recollect that a very large number of teachers come from towns like Trichur, Ernakulam, Wadakkancheri, Irinjalakkuda and so on. The number of schools in these places are limited. I have had such difficulties. And I may be permitted to place before this House a very recent instance. Two persons came to me for a transfer to Trichur ; the one on the ground that he has been away from Trichur, his native place, for the last 19 years. I thought it is a very hard case and he ought to be transferred immediately to Trichur. The person whom he was to displace came to me since he heard about it and said that he has been there for the last 23 years and he had only two years more to retire and why should he be disturbed at the fag end of his service. How is it humanly to satisfy everyone in a matter like this ? I assure this House in all seriousness that as far as possible consistent with the needs of the schools this principle of trying to post teachers in their own native places is being strictly adhered to. Government have absolutely no objection in accepting this principle. This is not the first time and my only surprise in this resolution is superfluous. This is the principle on which the Government itself is acting.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—So I think Government have no objection in accepting this resolution ?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Not at all.

Resolution was accepted by Government.

3. Government aid and appointments.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Sir, the resolution runs thus.

"*This Council recommends to the Government that no aid or contribution of money out of public revenue shall be made to any institution which does not entertain their staff from the various communities in the State in proportion to their population*".

I move this resolution under the impression that the Government have already accepted this principle, so far as the

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